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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/677,535	10/03/2003	Hideaki Watanabe	8038-1044	9332

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EXAMINER

TON, MINH TOAN T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2871

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06/27/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

5/7

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/677,535	Applicant(s) WATANABE, HIDEAKI	
	Examiner Toan Ton	Art Unit 2871	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-12 and 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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Election/Restriction

1. An election of species (A) without traverse comprising claims 1-8 and 13-14 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2 and 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by CN 1424615 (IDS).

'615 discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising: a panel unit including a LCD panel and a driver circuit (e.g., 5) for driving the LCD panel; a backlight including a plurality of optical components consecutively mounted on the LCD panel; a housing for receiving therein the panel unit and the backlight, the housing including a front housing member (e.g., 19) formed as a frame and at least one rear housing member (e.g., 8) that together support the panel unit and the backlight, the at least one rear unit (e.g., 8) covering lateral and rear sides of the backlight and the panel unit as a whole, the front housing member and the rear housing member being hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure (e.g., 26a, 26b).

'615 discloses the LCD device comprising a converter substrate (e.g., 13) includes an interface IC for transferring signals and an inverter substrate (e.g., 14, a power source circuit) for

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supplying electric power to a lamp in the backlight.

'615 discloses the LCD device comprising the front housing member including a first rib (e.g., 22) for aligning the panel unit with respect to the front housing member.

'615 discloses the LCD device comprising the front housing member including a plurality of second ribs (e.g., 23, 24, 25) for aligning said components of the backlight with respect to the front housing member.

Claims 1- 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ida et al (US 566172).

Ida discloses a liquid crystal display (LCD) device comprising (see at least Figures 2-5): a panel unit including a LCD panel and a driver circuit (e.g., 411) for driving the LCD panel; a backlight including a plurality of optical components consecutively mounted on the LCD panel; a housing for receiving therein the panel unit and the backlight, the housing including a front housing member (e.g., 500) formed as a frame and at least one rear housing member (e.g., 850) that together support the panel unit and the backlight, the at least one rear unit (e.g., 850) covering lateral and rear sides of the backlight and the panel unit as a whole, the front housing member and the rear housing member being hingedly coupled together via a coupling structure (e.g., 523).

Ida discloses the LCD device comprising an interface IC for transferring signals and a power source circuit for supplying electric power to a lamp in the backlight (see at least Figure 2).

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Ida discloses the LCD device comprising the panel unit and the backlight consecutively mounted on the front housing member, and the rear housing member (e.g., 850) being rotatable with respect to the front housing member from a first open position to permit assembly of the panel unit within the housing to a second closed position to cover the lateral and rear sides of the backlight and the panel unit (see at least Figure 5).

Ida discloses the LCD device comprising at least one rear housing member including a plurality of rear housing members coupled to respective edges of the front housing members (see at least Figures 3, 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ida as applied to claims 1-5 above.

The use of ribs in LCD housing device is common and known in the art for achieving advantages such as properly alignment of the optical elements of the LCD device so as minimizing damages of the device. Therefore, it would have been at least obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ to ribs for achieving advantages such as properly alignment of the optical elements of the LCD device so as minimizing damages of the device.

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Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 6-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art of record does not anticipate nor render obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art a liquid crystal display device comprising a combination of various elements as recited in claims 1 and 3-5, more specifically, the coupling member formed as a separate piece that is attachable to the front and rear housing members.

Contact Information

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan Ton whose telephone number is (571) 272-2303.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T. Ton
May 29, 2007

TOAN TON
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER